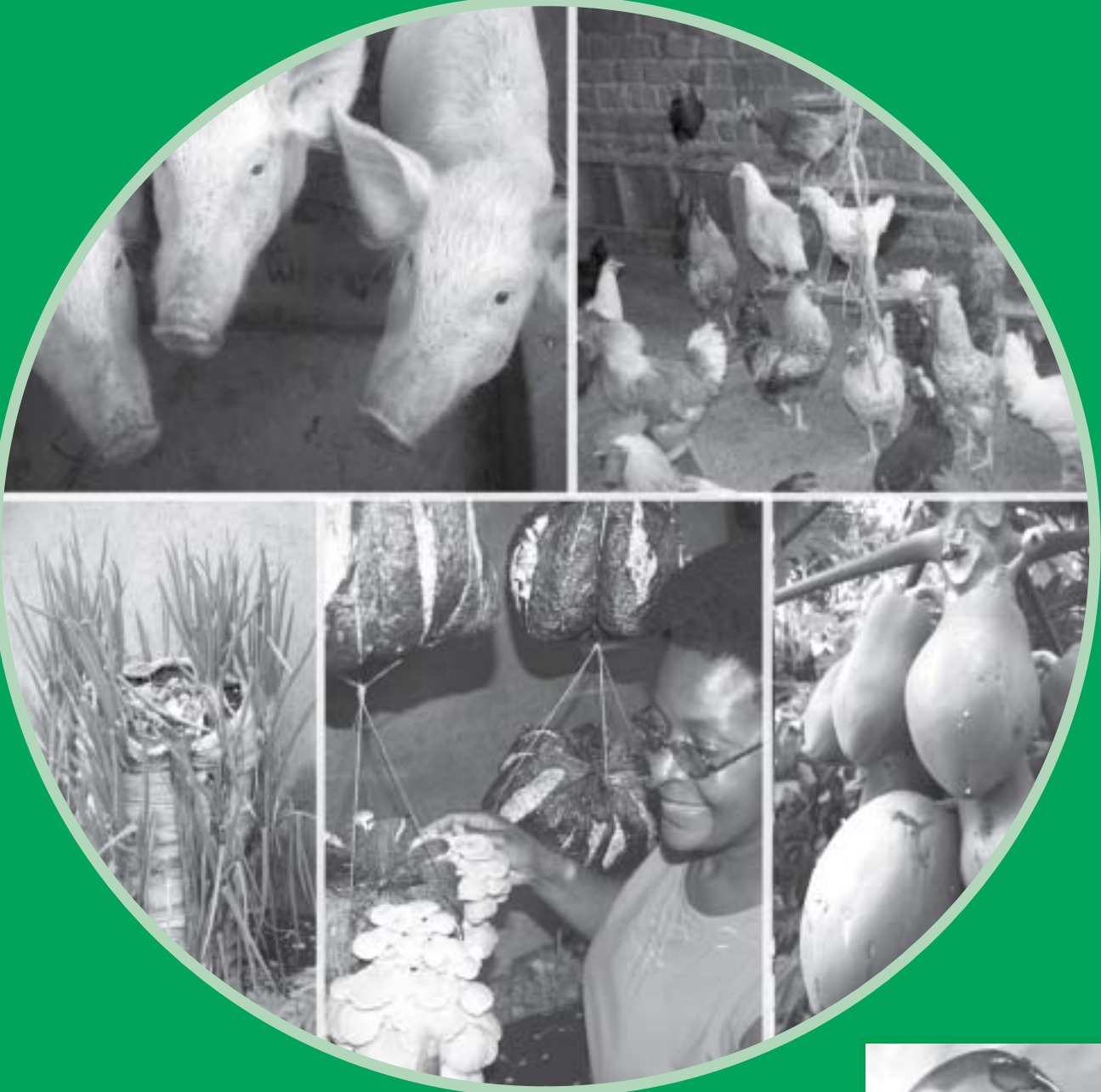




Ending Urban Poverty through Urban Agriculture



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Gratitude is also extended to the Department for International Development (DFID) for enabling this policy brief to be published and widely disseminated and for the assistance rendered to EA in the execution of various activities.

It is envisioned that every recipient of this publication will find it useful in one way or the other. We hope that indeed the contribution of urban agriculture to reduction of urban poverty will be highly appreciated and that the recommendations made herein will be found to be quite viable. We specifically urge policy makers to re-inforce these recommendations.

Acronyms

CAAs	Community Agricultural Advisors
CBO	Community Based Organisation
DFID	Department for International Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
KCC	Kampala City Council
MAPS	Marketing and Agro Processing Strategy
MOP	Microfinance Outreach Programme
MTCS	Medium Term Competitive Strategy
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NARS	National Agricultural Research Services
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
PAF	Poverty Action Fund
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PMA	Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
UA	Urban Agriculture
UFNP	Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy

Foreword

Urban Agriculture is practiced worldwide in cities of developed and developing countries alike. The contributions of urban agriculture to urban food security, urban economy and city ecology that have been identified by the urban agriculture practitioners from various parts of the world cannot be underestimated.

Environmental Alert is convinced that urban agriculture does reduce urban poverty. Studies undertaken have pointed to the fact that through urban agriculture urban household incomes have improved, employment has been provided for many, market access for produce is available and that livelihoods can improve. Environmental Alert therefore is in support of the promotion of urban agriculture and strongly proposes its institutionalization in national agricultural policies and frameworks.

Within the Ugandan context, urban agriculture needs to be recognized as a viable option for poverty eradication within the PEAP and PMA development frameworks considering her contribution to urban peoples' livelihoods in terms of food security, income, employment, social networks and urban environment management.

Analyses of current trends regarding urban food systems reveal that, in order to achieve food security for the urban poor, a sole reliance on food produced in rural areas is insufficient. For example, studies indicate that in Kampala over 50% of total food consumption in low-income households is produced within the city. It is therefore necessary for cities to develop plans to enhance urban and peri-urban food production, and to diversify away from the present reliance on the highly capitalised and energy-consuming "supermarket" model, based on the external supply of foodstuffs.

According to the State of Uganda Population Report 2007, 31% of Uganda's population lives below the poverty line (2006 statistics). Urban agriculture continues to play an important role in reducing the number of people living in abject poverty as exemplified in this policy brief. We are certain that with more recognition of the role of urban agriculture in reducing urban poverty many a reader of this policy brief will support the recommendations made herein to promote the activity in support of government programmes to eradicate poverty from the country in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals and for the betterment of urban populations in Uganda.

To be food secure all people must have constant supply of and access to a reliable and sufficient quantity and quality of food that allows them to lead healthy and active lives.

The magnitude and contribution of Urban Agriculture to urban livelihoods

- **70%** of poultry products, **45%** of vegetables and **91%** of mushrooms consumed in the city are produced by urban farmers; and **20%** of households recycle and utilize biodegradable domestic waste in Kampala (Muwanga 2001)
- **50%** of urban households supplement their incomes through urban & peri-urban agriculture (UPA)
- **80%** of the farming population in Kampala is involved in urban agriculture, have back yard kitchen garden (crop production) and **75%** of these are women. (Muwanga 2001)
- **40%** of the food consumed in Kampala was produced within city boundaries (Maxwell 1995)
- **70%** of all the food consumed in Mbale municipality, **60%** in Mbarara Municipality and **60%** in Lira Municipality come from urban farming. The study also established that **56.3%** of farmers recycle organic waste for various purposes: livestock feeds, compost among others (EA study, 2006)

80% of the farming population in Kampala is involved in urban agriculture, have back yard kitchen garden (crop production) and 75% of these are women. (Muwanga 2001)

Overview

Uganda's urban population currently stands at 3.7 million out of a total population of 28.4 million (State of Uganda Population Report 2007). In Uganda, the Local Government Act 2002 gazetted certain areas as urban and made Kampala the only city and other urban centers as municipalities or town councils, making a total of 75 urban areas irrespective of the population concentration. (ibid). All district headquarters are urban areas by law because they are located in town councils and all town councils are urban areas.

In Uganda, urban poverty constitutes 18% compared to 45% for the rural. Urban poverty In Uganda rose from 9.6% in 2000 to 12.2% in 2002/3 (Ministry Of Finance, Planning & Economic Development, Government of Uganda, 2004). The PEAP attributes urban poverty, to rural urban migration, and hence the solution lies in "making the conditions in rural areas better". The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) projects that urban areas will be home to two-thirds of the world's population. Also the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) predicts that the provision of adequate and safe food supplies for urban inhabitants will be the major challenges of the "Century of Cities". As such, the contribution and magnitude of (peri) urban agriculture to urban livelihoods and thus in alleviating poverty cannot be underscored.

To be food secure all people must have constant supply of and access to a reliable and sufficient quantity and quality of food that allows them to lead healthy and active lives. As a basic fundamental human right, adequacy of food implies physical and economic access by all categories, at all times, to adequate food in ways consistent with human dignity.

UA is one of the key strategies that works and ably actualizes this right to food for the urban poor communities engaged in it.

UA produces, processes, markets food and other products, on land and water in urban and peri-urban areas, applying intensive production methods, and (re) using natural resources and urban wastes, to yield a diversity of crops and livestock. Although it is appreciated, its significance in addressing poverty has been undermined in terms of legislation and financing in national plans

With the current trends in global demographic shifts urban agriculture is no longer a coping mechanism



Vegetable production in a food tower garden (space confined technology)

by the urban poor but indeed a viable economic activity calling for investment prioritization.

This policy brief calls for an understanding of the magnitude and importance of UA in order to direct actions for national development in light of urban land use planning within a balanced urban ecosystem. It thus recommends:

- Institutionalization at all levels to include districts and municipalities borrowing from existing Urban agriculture Ordinances;
- Research and modeling for learning and up scaling best practices;
- Policy and legal frameworks reviews and updates as well as enforcement mechanisms.



The practice of urban agriculture in Uganda dates back in the 1890s; was increasingly practiced in Kampala amidst constraining laws such as the public health and local government acts and bylaws which had not changed from colonial times.



Myths about Urban Agriculture

There have been myths/negative perceptions associated with UA. Some believe that UA:

- increases health hazards (spread by mosquitoes, bugs, micro-organisms, jiggers);
- increases the rate of physical car accidents;
- paves way for psychosocial hazards such as thefts, stress;
- is an environmental hazard (pollution, gaseous emissions, liquid and solid wastes);
- increases silting and blocking of roadside drainage channels.

Demystifying the myths



Tones of biodegradable organic wastes and waste water produced in cities, municipalities and town councils are capable of being turned into productive resource such as compost or animal feed.



In an attempt to demystify the myths, Environmental Alert (EA) implemented a 5 year Urban Food Security and Nutrition Project in Makindye Division in the parishes of Buziga, Salaama, Bukasa, Gaba, Kabalagala and Kibuli. The project aimed at improving sustainable agriculture for increased food security, nutrition and childcare, incomes and environmental health. It benefited over 700 households and created a lot of impact in terms of improving the urban farming communities' livelihoods.

In the same project Environmental Alert worked with Kampala City Council (KCC) and other stakeholders

to review and finalize Urban Agriculture Ordinances which were assented to by his worship the Mayor in May 2005. However, popularization and implementation of Urban Agriculture Ordinances is yet to be embarked on.

Furthermore, sustainable structures created during project implementation of Community Based Groups (CBOs) and Community Own Resource Persons like the Community Agricultural Advisors (CAAs) can play a critical role of quick dissemination and popularization of Urban Agriculture Ordinances in a more participatory and cost-effective way.

Urban agriculture complements rural agriculture in enhancing efficiency of the national food system in providing products whose timely demand rural based agriculture cannot supply easily (perishables). It not only releases rural lands for extensive export production but it is also integrated into the urban economic and ecological system to mitigate negative effects like organic waste as compost and urban wastewater for irrigation, direct links with urban consumers, and direct impacts on urban ecology (positive and negative).

The practice of urban agriculture in Uganda dates back in the 1890s; was increasingly practiced in Kampala amidst constraining laws such as the public health and local government acts and bylaws which had not changed from colonial times. These did not permit agriculture as a land use (Maxwell 1994). Urban land use planning and management often do not prioritise (peri) urban agriculture as a legitimate or priority land use.

Pillar 2 of the PEAP: Enhances increased production, competitiveness and income



Poultry farming is highly practiced in urban and urban areas because of its high profits

Economic effects of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the 1990s, Kampala city and other municipality dwellers increasingly relied on (peri) UA food production, mainly cassava, sweet potato, beans, maize, matoke and cocoyams. Livestock was diverse with poultry predominating (Maxwell 1994). Before then they relied on rural food supplies. These changes affected the routine urban societal functions pushing some City residents to resort to farming within the City, as one of the coping strategy (Prabha Khosia, 1993)

Urban agriculture in Kampala only became legal in 2005, when a set of five Ordinances to regulate and control urban and peri-urban agriculture activities in Kampala city were approved by the Ministry of local government and assented to by his worship the Mayor of Kampala City. This was through a process that started in 2000 by Environmental Alert in collaboration with Kampala City Council and other

stakeholders.

The PMA consultations were carried out in rural areas in the districts where farmers reside. No consultations were done in urban places because the assumption was that no farming activities were expected to be taking place in urban areas.

CONTRIBUTION OF URBAN AGRICULTURE TO THE REDUCTION OF URBAN POVERTY

UA products particularly from agro-enterprises serve as a source of income for the urban poor in addition to addressing their food needs. In order to ensure sustained and quality production, establishment of sustainable community structures is very critical.

Urban Agriculture can be organized by zoning the activities Urban Agriculture Ordinances provide for guiding, controlling, regulating and legalizing urban agriculture activities in the city to ensure more orderly, organized, highly productive, profitable and environmentally friendly agriculture. Ordinances clearly specify permitted agricultural activities in designated zones of the city and space confined agriculture.

Urban Agriculture can significantly reduce Urban Waste

Tones of biodegradable organic wastes and waste water produced in cities, municipalities and town councils are capable of being turned into productive resource such as compost or animal feed. UA therefore plays an important role in balancing up urban ecosystems in the urban environmental management system.

Urban Agriculture can Green urban environments.

Direct open spaces can be turned into green zones while buffer and reserve zones are kept free of housing, with positive impacts on the micro-climate (shade, temperature, sequestration of carbon dioxide). Floriculture and Urban forestry play a critical role of beautifying the city and improving the general environment.

THE UGANDA POLICY FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO URBAN AGRICULTURE

The Uganda's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP)

The PEAP provides an over-arching framework to guide public action to eradicate poverty but it is limited on the following in relation to UA:

- a) The PEAP attempts to explain the reason for urban poverty and attributes it to rural urban migration. The proposed solutions focus on “making the conditions in rural areas better”. UA is not fronted as one of the ways of mitigating urban poverty yet it does contribute heavily to improved living conditions of urban populations.
- b) The PEAP priorities and strategic approaches do not include UA. The contextual analysis that was used to inform the PEAP did not assess the livelihood strategies of the urban poor thus limiting any inclusion of UA in the plan.
- c) Pillar two which would address issues of UA does not do so. It focuses on government actions to promote production, competitiveness and incomes and these are guided by other policy frameworks which say very little or nothing about promoting UA.¹

The Hidden Treasure of UA in Lira Municipality

Mr. Otema Moses is a student of Amugu Technical School in Lira Municipality. He lives with his sister on a small piece of land. Moses rents a room in Lumumba Zone in the Peri urban area of Lira Municipality. Mr. Otema admired the vacant land owned by his landlord of about 1 acre. He requested for permission to temporarily use some of it for farming purposes. The landlord allowed him to use less than ¼ acre of that land around his home. Mr. Otema currently grows pumpkins, okra, beans, 'Malakwang', cassava, mangoes and maintains the existing wood trees. Moses says that he has benefited from UA because it has reduced his household food costs, keeps the landlord's compound clean, and also earns income from selling some of the produce. Moses gave an estimate of yields from the UA enterprises during the previous season as:-

<i>Bean 100kgx 600/=</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>60,000/=</i>
<i>Leafy veges 800 bundles x 100/=</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>8,000/=</i>
<i>Cassava 144kg x 60/=</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>8,640/=</i>
<i>Mangoes 2000 fruits x 50/=</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>100,000/=</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>=</i>	<i>176,640/=</i>

Otema saves approximately 176,000/= per season (approximately 30,000/= per month) by consuming food from his garden. His major challenge however, is to share the time he has, between maintaining his gardens and studies, since some seasons require a lot of garden time.

The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy (UFNP)

The Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy was formulated within the context of the overall national development policy objective of eradicating poverty as spelt out in the PEAP. The guiding principles of the Uganda Food and Nutrition Policy (UFNP) include; adequate food is a human right; food is treated as a national strategic

¹ These other policy frameworks include the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA), Medium Term Competitiveness strategy (MTCS) and Strategic Exports Programme (SEP).

resource; the cross-cutting nature of issues of food and nutrition as they affect men, women and children; strategies for responding to food and nutrition concerns at all levels and; the needs of all vulnerable groups being integral to all components of the policy.

The main gap concerning this policy is implementation. There are no specific interventions designed to address the factors causing nutritional vulnerability among the urban poor.

The Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA)

The PMA is a holistic strategic framework for eradicating poverty through multi-sectoral interventions. It is aimed at transforming subsistence farmers into market oriented commercial producers. It is an outcome-focused set of principles upon which intra and inter-sectoral policies and investment plans can be developed at both the central and local government levels.

The consultative processes that have informed the PMA priority areas for increased agricultural production have also been rural biased, leaving out the needs of urban poor farmers.

The Marketing and Agro Processing Strategy (MAPS)

MAPS facilitate market access for the rural poor and all services are directed to rural areas. This strategy was designed to contribute both to the vision and to the mission of PMA. The PMA recognises that improved market access is a key condition for the transformation of the sector from subsistence to commercial production. The purpose of the Strategy is therefore for small-scale farmers to be able to benefit from efficient markets and local-level value-addition. The gap is in the fact that it is rural and not urban based thereby completely ignoring UA.

Microfinance Outreach Programme (MOP)

One of PMA priority areas is “rural finance”. In order to meet the aspiration and objectives of the PMA, the long-run vision for the rural finance intervention has emerged as “an efficient nationally integrated system of financial institutions and intermediaries capable of accomplishing financial intermediation in rural sectors”.

The mission for achieving the above vision has therefore been formulated as “to put in place a system and institutional arrangements that will ensure increased availability of market-based rural financial services in Uganda on sustainable basis”. The gap in MOPS in relation to urban agriculture: Access to credit is not for urban agriculture. Its main focus is on outreach of rural finance.

National Agricultural Research Services (NARS)

NARS is made up of entities (institutions, individuals) that undertake and or deliver agricultural research services. These services range from simple experiments for learning to systematic, intensive scientific investigation into increasingly complex issues of phenomena. In consonance with the vision and guiding principles of the PMA the vision that guides the NARS policy is A market responsive, client oriented and demand driven national agricultural research system comprising public and private institutions working in tandem for the sustainable economic growth of Uganda.

Following the review of the National Agricultural System (NARS) under PMA, the NARS policy was formulated in 2003 and the NARS Bill passed by parliament in 2005. Dissemination and uptake through the NAADS structures, though effective links between NARS and NAADS are not yet established. This

linkage of NARS to NAADS implies that urban farmers will only start reaping real benefits from NARS only when the NAADS targets urban agriculture.

The Draft National Land Use Policy (NLUP), June 2004

The draft NLUP generally recognizes urban agriculture and identifies limitations in the land use planning that need to be addressed in order to ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources for social economic development. The remaining challenge is to finalize the policy and incorporate its implementation into the national budget priorities.

The 5 Kampala Urban Agriculture Ordinances

The Local Governments (Kampala City Council) (Urban Agriculture) Ordinance, 2006

This Ordinance addresses general issues surrounding growing crops and keeping livestock within the jurisdiction of Kampala City Council. Additional ordinances have been drafted to address the keeping of livestock as well as the processing and selling of meat, milk, and fish in greater detail. Anyone engaging in UA must obtain a permit and license from Council. The UA Ordinance regulates where urban agriculture activities may take place within the City; what is permissible with regards to the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides; and regulations for the processing of food and beverages.

The Local Governments (Kampala City Council) (Livestock & Companion Animal) Ordinance, 2006

Livestock keeping is a part of urban agriculture. Keeping animals in the City creates more risks to health than in the countryside because animals, and their wastes, are in close proximity to many people. This ordinance governs the keeping of all animals that are kept for food production and income as well as animals that are kept as companions. It aims to keep things clean and well organized with animals within the City.

The Local Governments (Kampala City Council) (Meat) Ordinance, 2006

The slaughtering of animals, transport, processing and marketing of meat in urban areas are related to urban agriculture. Meat and meat products are highly perishable as a form of food and need careful handling to protect people's health. The Kampala City Council will, therefore, document and regulate slaughterhouses and butchers within the jurisdiction of the City Council of Kampala as well as transporters of meat, both artisanal and industrial, to the benefit of residents and the city population in general.

The Local Governments (Kampala City Council) (Milk) Ordinance, 2006

The sale of milk and milk products are related to urban agriculture. Milk is a highly perishable form of food and needs careful handling to protect people's health. This Ordinance will, therefore, regulate permits and licenses for dairies, establish standards for milk and milk products, and prevent the spread of disease to the benefit of residents and the city population in general.

The Local Governments (Kampala City Council) (Fish) Ordinance, 2006

The farming, capture, handling, processing and marketing of fish in urban areas are part of urban agriculture. Fish are a highly perishable form of food and require careful handling to protect people's health. This Ordinance will, therefore, regulate anyone dealing with fish and fish products as a business

(e.g., fish farmer, fisher-man, fish monger, or transporter). This will be accomplished through the issue of permits and licenses, the enforcement of standards for fish processing and selling premises, and regulations for fish drying and packaging.

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Mabira Agenda. Tumulwanirire	Flyer
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The ABCs of organising an exposure tour	Booklet
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Environmental Alert (EA) is a Non Governmental development Organisation born out of the need to address the alarmingly low levels of agricultural productivity in the country, high levels of food insecurity and low incomes in both rural and urban poor communities, in addition to protecting against rapid degradation of natural resources on which community livelihood depends.

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Our Vision: We envisage communities free from hunger and managing their natural resources sustainably.

Our Mission: To contribute to improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities by enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resource management.

Our core business is therefore pursuing

- An enabling natural resources policy and practice environment
- Increased civic expression of vulnerable communities
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